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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council says Iraq "must immediately take appropriate action to comply fully and unconditionally with Council resolutions", in Presidential statement at resumed meeting.

+ Secretary-General appoints Lieutenant-General John M. Sanderson of Australia as Commander of military component of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

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On the second day of meetings on the question of Iraqi compliance with resolution 687 (1991), the Security Council called, in a Presidential statement, on Iraq to take the "appropriate action" to comply "fully and unconditionally" with its obligations under that text. Members of the Council expressed the hope that the goodwill expressed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq would be matched with deeds.

The statement was read out by Council President Diego Arria (Venezuela) this afternoon, after hearing Mr. Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, this morning.

Prior to a suspension of the morning meeting to permit Council members to engage in consultations, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister had said in a statement that his country was ready to enter into serious talks to work out the details of its compliance with resolutions adopted following the Gulf war, including resolution 687 (1991).

In particular, he expressed his country's willingness to enter into a dialogue with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Special Commission established to carry out the disarmament provisions of resolution 687, in order to assist them in their work. The Deputy Prime Minister was responding to questions raised following his statement to the Council yesterday morning.

Mr. Aziz also said that all proscribed weapons had been destroyed. However, he objected to the destruction of equipment that could be converted

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to civilian or non-banned production. He added that the Iraqi authorities were ready to publish the names of missing persons in Iraqi newspapers and to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with access to detention camps.

As to charges that Iraq was carrying out a blockade against three of its provinces, he explained that food rations were supplied to certain "caterers" in the Kurdish-controlled areas, who were then responsible for their distribution. He denied the existence of any Shiite problem in Iraq. He also called on the Council to allow an Iraqi delegation to attend its regular review of Iraq's compliance with the Council's resolutions.

Commenting on that statement, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, said: "We are once again in a cat and mouse game" in which Iraq was willing to discuss at great length but not to comply. Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom) characterized some of the replies as "frankly evasive", and said he hoped that new promises of cooperation would be matched with deeds. Yoshio Hatano (Japan) said he felt that his questions on the fate of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals in Iraq had not been adequately answered.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Lieutenant-General John M. Sanderson of Australia as Commander of the military component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), established by the Security Council on 28 February.

General Sanderson has served in a variety of posts in the armed forces of his country, including Chief of Staff of the Army's Land Command and Commander of the 1st Brigade during which time he was also the Airborne Force Commander.

A construction and military engineer by training, General Sanderson has extensive experience in South-East Asia, including operational service in East Malaysia and South Viet Nam, where he was involved in mine clearance and reconstruction of war-damaged infrastructure in the southern provinces.

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